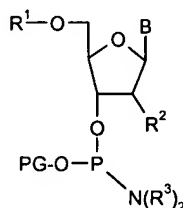


IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original): A process for the purification of an oligonucleotide synthon, which comprises subjecting an organic solution comprising an oligonucleotide synthon and lower molecular weight impurities to nanofiltration whereby the ratio of an oligonucleotide synthon to lower molecular weight impurities in the solution is increased after the nanofiltration.
2. (original): A process according to claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide synthon is a nucleoside phosphoramidite or nucleoside H-phosphonate.
3. (original): A process according to claim 2, wherein the oligonucleotide synthon is a compound of formula (1):



wherein R¹ is a protecting group, B is a nucleoside base, R² represents -H, -F -OR⁴, -NR⁵R⁶, -SR⁷, or a substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic group, each R³ independently is a C₁₋₆ alkyl group, PG is a phosphorus protecting group, R⁴ represents -H, a substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, an alcohol protecting group, or -(CH₂)_q-NR⁹R¹⁰, R⁵ and R⁶ are each, independently, -H, a substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic group, or an amine protecting group, or R⁵ and R⁶ taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached are a heterocyclcyl group, R⁷ represents -H, a substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic group, or a thiol protecting group, R⁹ and R¹⁰ are each, independently, -H, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group, a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaryl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aliphatic group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted heteroaralkyl group or an amine

protecting group, or R⁹ and R¹⁰ taken together with the nitrogen to which they are attached form a heterocyclyl group; and q is an integer from 1 to about 6.

4. (original): A process according to claim 3, wherein PG is a betacyanoethyl group, and each R³ is an isopropyl group.

5. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein a polyimide nanofiltration membrane is employed.

6. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein a nanofiltration membrane having a molecular weight cut off of 400 is employed.

7. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the process is operated in cross flow configuration.

8. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the process employs a pressure of from 15 to 35 bar.

9. (currently amended): A process according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein fresh organic solvent corresponding to the volume passed through the nanofiltration membrane is added into the retained synthon solution.